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## PARAGUAY.

*Concerning plague in Asuncion.*ASUNCION, PARAGUAY, *October 10, 1899.*

SIR: I have to transmit as a supplementary report to mine of October 2, 1899, touching the suspected bubonic plague in Paraguay, the following inclosures:

1. Instructions of the national board of health, relative to the prevention of the propagation of the bubonic plague, called the reigning sickness in said circular, and the kind of disinfection necessary to be used.

2. Copy of instructions No. 2, also of the national board of health, stating the symptoms, the treatment, precaution, cause of death, house cleaning, and convalescence.

You will note that in these circulars the national board of health calls the disease "enfermedad reinante" (reigning sickness), and not once uses the term "bubonic plague."

I have not had time to translate these circulars because of the unexpected departure of a small boat carrying the mail below.

The condition of affairs is very precarious. The schools have all been closed, and ports below have been shut against this country. Hides, tobacco, oranges, and eatables of all classes are prohibited entrance into the ports below. Congress meets in extra session on the 15th to consider the state of the country financially, hygienically, etc. Perhaps an emission of \$10,000,000 will be made to pay salaries, debts incurred, and deficits by reason of the sickness here. The physicians here are not unanimous in pronouncing it the bubonic plague. Many leading men say the diseased cattle which have been eaten in the country are the real causes of the sickness. Others say the real bubonic plague was brought with the boat *Centauro* three months ago from below. Whatever the disease is, it is not malignant in character, nor apparently very contagious.

Inclosure No. 3 denies the removal of the Brazilian minister, as telegraphic inclosures in mine of October 2, 1899, announced from Rio de Janeiro.

Respectfully,

JOHN N. RUFFIN,  
*United States Consul.*

Hon. ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

## PORTUGAL.

*Plague conditions at Oporto—Continuation of letter published in Public Health Reports September 29.*

PORT OF BOSTON, MASS., *November 27, 1899.*

SIR: I have the honor to make this report of my journey to Spain and Portugal for your information:

I went from Lausanne to Marseilles, mainly to find out, if possible, whether there had been any cases of plague there or any report of suspicious cases. The consul was absent on leave, but I obtained all the information necessary, principally from the vice-consul, Mr. Fast, and one of the clerks of the office, Mr. Chambers. Mr. Chambers had been, in 1893, carefully instructed by myself and other officers in the method of inspection of ships and emigrants, and his opinion is really of some value. So far, it appears there have been no cases of plague in Mar-